

## **Weekly Status & Information Report: Week of January 3, 2005**

1. **Local Government Grants Conference:** Ivy Thompson attended the Local Government Grants Conference hosted by the Maryland Governor's Grants Office on Tuesday. The first of its kind ever held in the State, there were over 450 attendees representing public, private and non-profit organizations throughout the State. Ivy is following up with Rob Carter the Federal Liaison to the Maryland's Governor's Grants Office to further discuss federal grant opportunities for Takoma Park. (*Housing & Community Development*)
2. **Gateway and Wayfinding Signage System (All Wards):** A revised web page for the signage system will be posted on the City website by the end of the day on Friday, January 7. The web page will show all of the proposed signs, ask for people's preferences for priorities for the first phase of implementation, and encourages other questions and comments about the proposed signage system. (*Housing and Community Development*)
3. **East Hampshire Center (Ward 3):** The hearing that had been scheduled before the Planning Board for an extension of the permits issued by the County for a proposed self storage facility at the corner of Eastern and New Hampshire Avenues has been postponed. Park and Planning staff has delayed action on the owner's requested extension until they have had an opportunity to review the additional materials submitted by the City and the owner. The soonest the hearing will be rescheduled for is January 27. (*Housing and Community Development*)
4. **New Traffic and Pedestrian Signals at NH Ave and Sligo Creek Parkway (Ward 6):** State Highway Administration has recently completed a needed redesign of the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and Sligo Creek Parkway. The project, which includes the installation of improved traffic and pedestrian signals and the relocation of crosswalks, is scheduled to begin sometime in February. The signals located at this intersection were damaged by flooding earlier this year and have been inoperable for many months, creating an unsafe walking environment for pedestrians. The project will include a new crosswalk with upgraded traffic signals and pedestrian signals across Sligo Creek Parkway. The crosswalk located on the south edge of the intersection, across New Hampshire, will be removed as the sidewalk does not extend beyond the intersection. The crosswalk and pedestrian signal heads located on the northern edge of the intersection will be replaced with improved pedestrian signals. (*Housing & Community Development*)
5. **Officer in Training:** Officer Derek Fields completed field training and will work on Sgt. Frishkorn's squad; a permanent beat assignment has not been set. (*Police*)
6. **Christmas for the Needy:** The COP Team delivered holiday packages to 14 families/ individuals on December 23. Included were the groceries for a holiday dinner (donated by Takoma Park Police officers) and gifts for children provided by the TPVFD drive. Recipients live in all three sectors of the City. (*Police*)

7. **Crime Blotter (Wards 3 and 6):** Det. Andrew John has obtained warrants against two men for fall burglaries (Ward 3). A 45-year-old City resident is charged with an October commercial burglary in the 6500 block of New Hampshire Avenue; investigation of other involvement continues. A 40-year-old Ft. Washington man is charged in a November residential burglary in the 6900 block of Westmoreland Ave. On Dec. 28, an officer working part-time at a business in the City requested back-up from working officers for a wanted suspect. In the course of the event, a City man was arrested for possession of drugs and possession with intent to distribute (Ward 3). Additional arrests are listed in the Weekly Crime Blotter, including drug possession and fugitive arrests stemming from traffic stops. It should be noted that Police received a "Suspicious Person" call on Dec. 25, the caller reporting that an unknown man in a red coat was banging on business doors (Ward 6). Did Santa run out of gifts and need to make a late shopping trip? *(Police)*

8. **Police Department Departures:** Norma (Jurado) Falcon, parking enforcement coordinator, has resigned to become the office administrator in the communications office of Montgomery County Fire/Rescue Services. She has been a city employee in the Recreation and Police Department, beginning as a high school intern in the police department more than 15 years ago, later serving as a parking enforcement officer. She will be sorely missed, as she was cross-trained in almost all jobs in administrative services, provided Spanish/English translation, and emphasized customer service. Dispatcher Denise Inkrote resigned effective Dec. 20, moving her home to West Virginia and her skills to the Washington County Sheriffs Department. *(Police)*

9. **TASDI Committee Update:** The next Residents' Committee on Tax and Service Duplication Issues (TASDI) meeting is Wednesday, January 12 at 7 pm in the Columbia Room of CUC's Wilkinson Hall. Since the last meeting on December 8, subcommittees have been meeting with City department heads to learn more about City services and areas of tax and service duplication with Montgomery County. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

10. **Legislators in Session:** The Maryland General Assembly will be in session from January 12 to April 11. Staff is preparing lobbying strategies and background material on issues such as municipal electrical aggregation, pedestrian and traffic safety, and protecting State funds for municipalities. No food is allowed in the House delegation rooms this year, so alternatives to the City's annual legislative lunch are being investigated. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

11. **Pedestrian Safety Improvements (Ward 6):** Delegate Peter Franchot and Senator Gwendolyn Britt (Dist. 47, Prince George's County) have agreed to work with the City of Takoma Park, and the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Pedestrian Safety Committee on advocating for pedestrian safety improvements in the Takoma/Langley area while at the same time searching for alternatives to the six-foot high median fencing proposed by SHA for the area. City staff is following up with them and the other District 20 and 47 representatives on the issue. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

12. **The DC Comprehensive Plan (Wards 1 and 3):** A public workshop on the DC Comprehensive Plan is scheduled for Wed., January 26 from 6-9 pm at Paul Public Charter School at 5800 8th St., NW. The DC Comprehensive Plan is in the process of being updated. More information can be found at [www.inclusivitycity.org](http://www.inclusivitycity.org). While the meeting is primarily for residents of Washington's Wards 3 and 4, Takoma Park residents and businesses close to the District line will be affected and may wish to attend. During this updating process, Ward Plans and Area Plans (such as the Takoma Small Area Plan) will be incorporated into the new Comprehensive Plan in a different way than in the past, although the intention is to keep the content of the plans. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

13. **Tenant Opportunity to Purchase (Ward 5):** HCD staff received notice that 8208 Houston Court (6 units) is being sold. The contract price is \$550,000. Tenants have been sent letters advising of their rights to purchase the property under the City's ordinance. The prospective purchaser has been sent a letter notifying them of the Takoma Park Code requirements. *(Housing and Community Development)*

14. **Capacity Building Program (Ward 5):** Mario Cristaldo met with the residents of 641 Houston Avenue after they expressed interest in reactivating their tenant association to address some issues in the building. A follow up meeting has been arranged for the weekend of January 8th to assist them in their effort. *(Housing and Community Development)*

15. **Fourth Quarter and 2004 Totals for Tree Permit/Waiver Applications-4th Quarter:**

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<b>Tree Permit Applications</b>	<b>Fourth Quarter</b>	<b>2004 Totals</b>
Applications Received	38 (71 Trees)	197 (332 Trees)
Permits Received	31	153
Waivers Received	35	159
Emergency Waivers Received	4	12
Applications Denied	1	8

*(City Arborist)*